

Dear Mr. Chairman and House Local Government Committee Members:

2/22/07
684

I am here today representing the Lone Rock Citizens for Responsible Growth, a grass-roots organization comprised of over 300 local residents in the Lone Rock School District in Greenville Montana.

We support HB 684 and the beneficial revisions contained therein, because anything that makes the implementation of impact fees on new development less cumbersome and more straight-forward while still being fair and technically-defensible is way over due!

Rural governmental entities are faced with a "tsunami" of growth and development in western Montana. These governmental bodies are generally not as sophisticated, and not as well funded as the special interests who are fighting against impact fees. These antagonists of the concept of "growth paying for itself" have been successful at intimidating local governments to shy away from enacting impact fee legislation due to the complexity and ambiguity of the current law.

As a resident of a small rural community faced with the inevitability of growth threatening to double the size of our school in less than 3 years, I urge you to support this bill and act in service of the public ~~and~~ by making the tool of impact fee enactment "useable" by the citizens it was intended to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

Sincerely, Linda A. Cardenas

Linda A. Cardenas

